In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A <u>computerized</u> method for processing descriptions of audiovisual content, the method comprising:

evaluating a description of audiovisual content;

determining whether the description is an abstraction; and

if the description is an abstraction,

determining a level of abstraction, <u>wherein the level of abstraction</u> <u>identifies one of plurality of types of abstraction,</u> and

storing an indicator of the level of abstraction with the description of audiovisual content.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the description of audiovisual content is a semantic description.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing the indicator of the level of abstraction to determine a usage mode of the description of audiovisual content.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the usage mode is any one of a descriptive mode or an accessing mode.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing the indicator of the level of abstraction to determine whether the description of audiovisual content is a media abstraction.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising utilizing the indicator of the level of abstraction to determine whether the description of audiovisual content is a lambda abstraction.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the indicator of the level of abstraction includes a positive integer to store a number associated with the level of abstraction.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the indicator further includes a term to point to one of a plurality of entries in a classification scheme, the one of the plurality of entries being defined by the abstraction.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the description of the audiovisual content is a description scheme.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising searching a database of descriptions using a level of abstraction specified by a user.

11. (Currently amended) An electronic system for processing descriptions of audiovisual content, the system comprising:

     means for evaluating a description of audiovisual content ;

     means for determining whether the description is an abstraction;

     means for determining a level of abstraction if the description is an abstraction, wherein the level of abstraction identifies one of plurality of types of abstraction; and

     means for storing an indicator of the level of abstraction with the description of audiovisual content upon determining the level of abstraction.

12. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

     a description processor to determine that a description of audiovisual content is an abstraction and to calculate an abstraction level for the description, wherein the abstraction level identifies one of plurality of abstraction types; and

     a data depository to store the description with an indicator of the abstraction level.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the description of audiovisual content is a semantic description.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the abstraction level defines a usage mode of the description.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the usage mode is any one of a descriptive mode or an accessing mode.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the abstraction level indicates whether the description of audiovisual content is a media abstraction.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the abstraction level indicates whether the description of audiovisual content is a lambda abstraction.

18. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the indicator of the level of abstraction includes a positive integer to store a number associated with the level of abstraction.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein the indicator further includes a term to point to one of a plurality of entries in a classification scheme, the one of the plurality of entries being defined by the abstraction.

20. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the description of the audiovisual content is a description scheme.

21. (Original) The system of claim 12 further comprising a search module to search the data repository using a level of abstraction specified by a user.

22. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause said processor to perform operations comprising:

evaluating a description of audiovisual content;

determining whether the description is an abstraction; and

if the description is an abstraction,

determining a level of abstraction, wherein the level of abstraction identifies one of plurality of types of abstraction, and

storing an indicator of the level of abstraction with the description of audiovisual content.